

Iowa Chess News

En Passant

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Iowa State Chess Association

April 2024

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Note: If your name is not present, please let Ben Darr know and he will help renew your membership.

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The names of Patron members will be listed in every issue of *En Passant*. The extra money will be added to the IASCA budget and spent as the membership directs.



Nadezhda Davaeva vs Arron Singh in the final round of the 2024 Rockefeller Qualifier. Photo by Bill Broich

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iowachessassociation@gmail.com

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En Passant Editor:

Cassidy Noble
noblecass@gmail.com

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Join the Iowa State Chess Association!

The Iowa State Chess Association is a non-profit organization devoted exclusively to the promotion of chess in Iowa.

Join or renew by sending dues to the IASCA Secretary:

Benjamin Darr
419 Winona St.
Dubuque, IA 52001

Or Join on our website via Iowa-Chess.org

Membership Dues:

Regular	\$10 for 1 year
	\$20 for 2 years
Patron:	\$25 per year
Affiliates:	\$15 per year
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Library:	\$25 per year

Hello From the Editor

Hello, I am Cassidy Noble.

I am a Class A player and have been playing competitive chess for about a decade.

Inside, you will see contributions from Bill Broich, Ben Darr, and Rick Rector. Thank you for your contributions!



En Passant Advertising Rates:

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Upcoming Tournaments

2024 Iowa Class Championships. Summary: 4 Round Swiss, Individual Classes: M-X-A, B, C, & D (Class E & Under has it's own tournament page). Playing up one class allowed for extra \$10 fee. **Date:** Saturday, April 13, 2024. **Director:** Ben Bratz. **Time Control:** G/60 d5. **Rounds:** 4 Round Swiss 9:30 am-2:30-5:00-7:30 pm. **Registration:** 8 am - 9 am Please preregister online if possible! **US Chess Required:** Yes. **IASCA Required:** Yes. **Memberships Available Onsite:** Yes. **Entry Fee:** \$35 if received by April 12, \$45 afterward. \$10 play-up fee. **Send Entry Fee:** Online or onsite entry only please. **Prizes:** Class Prizes: 1st place \$75 + trophy, 2nd place \$50, 3rd place \$25. **Contact:** Jim Freerksen - Jim@dsmchess.com or (515) 776-0261, Ben Bratz - ben.w.bratz@gmail.com or (515) 805-1147. **Location:** Des Moines Airport Holiday Inn. Holiday Inn Des Moines-Airport/Conf Center, an IHG Hotel, Fleur Drive, Des Moines, IA, USA. **Additional Info:** IASCA Annual Membership Meeting 1 pm - 2 pm. All IASCA Members are welcome. Iowa Closed Championship held concurrent with Iowa Class Championships. Among other business,

a President will be elected to a three year term at this meeting.

Iowa Class E and Under Championship. Summary: Class E & Under (US Chess Regular Rating of Under 1200). **Date:** Saturday, April 13, 2024. **Director:** Ben Bratz. **Time Control:** G30 d/5. **Rounds:** 5 Rounds Swiss. **Time Control:** G30 d/5. **Rounds:** 5 Rounds Swiss. **Registration:** On-site Registration from 8-9 am. Registration after 9 am will be given a 1/2 point bye for round 1. **US Chess Required:** Yes. **IASCA Required:** No. **Memberships Available Onsite:** Yes. **Entry Fee:** \$25 if received by April 12, \$35 afterward. **Send Entry Fee:** Online or on-site entry only please. **Prizes:** Trophies to top 6, 1st and 2nd for U1000, U800, U600, U400, U200, and Unrated. **Contact:** Jim Freerksen - Jim@dsmchess.com or (515) 776-0261 Ben Bratz - ben.w.bratz@gmail.com or (515) 805-1147. **Location:** Des Moines Airport Holiday Inn. Holiday Inn Des Moines-Airport/Conf Center, an IHG Hotel, Fleur Drive, Des Moines, IA, USA. **Additional Info:** Annual Membership Meeting 1 pm - 2 pm. All IASCA Members are welcome. Iowa Closed Championship held concurrent with Iowa Class Cham-

Upcoming Tournaments (cont.)

pionship held concurrent with Iowa Class Championships. Among other business, a President will be elected to a three-year term at this meeting.

2024 April K-12 Quick Chess Championship. Summary: 5 round Swiss system (All players will play all 5 rounds). Limited to 40 players! Must be students in grades K-12.

Date: Sunday, April 28, 2024. **Director:** Jim Freerksen. **Time Control:** G/15; d5 (each side has 15 minutes to make all moves, with a 5-second delay before each move). **Rounds:** 5 Rounds: Round 1 will start at 1:45. All other rounds will start ASAP. The tournament should end around 4:30 or 5. **Contact:** Jim Freerksen by phone at (515) 776-0261 or email at jim@dsmchess.com. **US Chess Required:** Yes. **IASCA Required:** No. **Memberships Available Onsite:** Yes. **Entry Fee:** \$20 If registered before 11:59 pm on April 27th. \$25 day of the tournament unless prior arrangement is made. **Send Entry Fee:** Online or on-site registration. **Prizes:** Trophies 1st-6th place; 1st and 2nd place trophies for top performers rated under 1000, U800, U600, U400, U200, and Unrated (Players only receive one trophy. If a player receives a 1st-6th place trophy they are not eligible for a rating based prize.). Medals awarded for all new US Chess Rated tournament players. **Contact:** Jim Freerksen by phone at (515) 776-0261 or email at jim@dsmchess.com. **Location:** TJ's Bagels/Java Joes Coffee Reception Room. 127 N Ankeny Blvd, Ankeny, IA 50023, USA. **Additional Info:** On-site registration from 12:30 - 1:30. USCF membership is required. On-site USCF membership is available at an \$11 discounted rate for K-12 players. Additional information: Byes: Two 1/2-point byes per player and must be requested prior to the start of the 1st round to receive a 1/2 -point. Byes for all other rounds are allowed but will receive 0 points. NO ELECTRONIC SCORESHEETS. Players are allowed to spectate after their game is over. Spectator rules are subject to change.

Roger Kromphardt/Tony Britton Memorial Cinco de Mayo Chess Tournament 2024. **Date:** Saturday, May 4, 2024. **Director:** Ben Bratz. **An Iowa Mini-Qualifier. Time Con-**

trol: G/65, d5. **Rounds:** 10 a.m., 1:15 p.m., 3:45 p.m. and 6 p.m. **Additional Info:** **Three sections** USCF-rated Open Section (Iowa Mini-Qualifier): USCF and IASCA membership required. Join USCF <https://new.uschess.org/join-us-chess> Join IASCA <https://www.iowa-chess.org/join> IASCA membership, \$10 available on-site. Other states OK. 4 round Swiss. Rds 10 a.m., 1:15 p.m., 3:45 p.m. and 6 p.m. TC: G/65, d5. Prizes: 1st: \$125, 2nd: \$100, 3rd: \$75, 4th: \$50. EF: \$30 online before 4/29. Between 4/29-5/3, \$40. At door: \$50. Register at <https://www.kingregistration.com/event/quadcitcityincodemayo2024>. Cash only on-site registration from 8:30-9:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 4. Bring sets, clocks. Email Rick Rector at rrector1217@gmail.com. Phone: Luis Peralta at 309-737-2890. USCF rated Reserve (Under 1400 section): USCF membership required. 4 round Swiss. Rds 10 a.m., 1:15 p.m., 3:45 p.m. and 6 p.m. TC: G/65, d5. Prizes: 1st: \$100, 2nd: \$75, 3rd: \$50. EF: \$20 before 4/29. Between 4/29-5/3, \$30. At door: \$40. Register online at <https://www.kingregistration.com/event/quadcitcityincodemayo2024>. Cash only on-site registration from 8:30-9:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 4. Bring sets, clocks. Email Rick Rector at rrector1217@gmail.com Phone: Luis Peralta at 309-737-2890. Unrated Beginner Kids Section: For newbies who do not have a USCF rating. \$10 entry fee. Register online at <https://www.kingregistration.com/event/quadcitcityincodemayo2024> Cash only sign up at door from 8:30-9:30 a.m. 4 round Swiss-style tournament. Round 1 starts at 10 a.m. Rds: 2-4 ASAP. Trophies for 1-5 places. Inquiries: Luis Peralta at 309-737-2890 or email at lm-peralta@wiu.edu. Bring chess sets, clocks. **Registration:** EF: \$30 online before 4/29. Between 4/29-5/3, \$40. At door: \$50. Register at <https://www.kingregistration.com/event/quadcitcityincodemayo2024>. Cash only on-site registration from 8:30-9:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 4. **US Chess Required:** Yes. **IASCA Required:** Yes. **Memberships Available Onsite:** Yes. **Entry Fee:** Open: \$30 online before 4/29. Between 4/29-5/3, \$40. At door: \$50. **Send Entry Fee:** Rick Rector, 3614 N. Thornwood Ave., Davenport, Iowa 52806. **Prizes:** 1st: \$125, 2nd: \$100, 3rd: \$75, 4th:

\$50. Contact: Rick Rector rrec-tor1217@gmail.com. **Location:** Western Illinois University - Q-C campus. 3300 River Drive – Moline, Ill., Riverfront Hall/Rooms 104-105.

2024 Des Moines Open & Reserve. Date: Friday, June 7, 2024 - Sunday, June 9, 2024. **Director:** Ben Bratz. **IASCA Iowa Qualifier AND US CHESS GRAND PRIX POINTS:** **10.** Two-day and three-day schedules are available. Open and Reserve USCF only. Blitz: Sat, 8 PM, \$25 Entry Fee, 5-round Swiss, 2 games per round, G/3 +2 incr, USCF rated. Prizes: 75% of entry fees to be awarded in prizes. Separate registration is required. **Time Control:** 3-day Schedule, G/90 + 30-second increment for all rounds. 2-Day Schedule, rounds 1 & 2 only, G/60 d5 and rounds 3 through 5 and play G/90 + 30-second increment. **Rounds:** 3-day Schedule. Friday: Round 1, 7 pm. Saturday: Round 2, 10:00 Saturday: Round 3, 3:30. Sunday: Round 4, 9:30 Sunday: Round 5, 2:00. 2-Day Schedule. Saturday: Round 1, 10:00 Saturday: Round 2, 12:30 Saturday: Round 3, 3:30. Sunday: Round 4, 9:30 Sunday: Round 5, 2:00. **Additional Info:** Byes: One 1/2-point bye per player. Last round bye must be requested prior to the start of the 1st round to receive a 1/2-point. Byes for all other rounds must be requested 1 hour prior to the start of the round. USCF June supplement used for ratings. FIDE rule 11.3 is enforced regarding electronic devices. Players must turn in a scoresheet for every game. NO ELECTRONIC SCORESHEETS. No spectators are allowed in the playing hall 10 minutes after the start of the round. Players are allowed to spectate after their game is over. Spectator rules are subject to change. Refund one half of entry fee for withdrawal prior to the start of the event. **Registration:** 8:30-9:45am on Saturday June 8th. **US Chess Required:** Yes. **IASCA Required:** Yes. **Memberships Available On-site:** Yes. **Entry Fee:** Open. \$60 before June 8th, \$75 on-site. (\$20 extra to play up from Reserve into Open section if rating between 1400 and 1600). Re-entry +\$20. Reserve. \$50 before June 8th, \$65 on-site. \$60 before June 8th, \$70 on-site. Re-entry +\$20. **Send Entry Fee:** Bill Broich, 3100 Grand Ave. 2e, Des Moines, IA 50312. **Prizes:** Open. \$650 b/24 entries. 1st: \$200, 2nd: \$150 3rd: \$125 U2000 \$100 U1800 \$75. Reserve. \$375 b/24 entries.

1st-2nd \$125-\$100. Class Prizes: U1400 \$85, U1200 \$65. **Contact:** Bill Broich by phone at (515) 205-8062 or by email at broich01@yahoo.com, OR Ben Bratz by phone at (515)805-1147 or by email at bratzchess@gmail.com. **Location:** Holiday Inn Des Moines-Airport/Conf Center, an IHG Hotel, Fleur Drive, Des Moines, IA, USA. 515.287.2400 HR: \$105 if reserved by May 18th. The tournament hall is on the second floor. by phone at (515)805-1147 or by email at bratzchess@gmail.com. **Location:** Holiday Inn Des Moines-Airport/Conf Center, an IHG Hotel, Fleur Drive, Des Moines, IA, USA. 515.287.2400 HR: \$105 if reserved by May 18th. The tournament hall is on the second floor.

2024 Des Moines RBO. Date: Saturday, June 8, 2024. **Director:** Ben Bratz. US Chess Rated Event 5 rounds (Swiss System), G/30; d5 (each side has 30 minutes to make all moves, with a 5-second delay before each move). This event is open to players rated under 1200. **Time Control:** G/30; d5 (each side has 30 minutes to make all moves, with a 5-second delay before each move). **Rounds:** Round 1 10:00 am Round 2 11:15 am Round 3 1:00 pm Round 4 ASAP Round 5 ASAP. **Additional Info:** Byes: One 1/2-point bye per player. Last round bye must be requested prior to the start of the 1st round to receive a 1/2 -point. Byes for all other rounds must be requested during registration. NO ELECTRONIC SCORESHEETS. Players are allowed to spectate after their game is over. Refund one half of entry fee for withdrawal prior to the start of the event. Spectator rules are subject to change. **Registration:** 8:30-9:45. **US Chess Required:** Yes. **IASCA Required:** No. **Memberships Available Onsite:** Yes. **Entry Fee:** \$30 online Registration. \$40 On-site. USCF membership is required. On-site USCF membership is available. **Send Entry Fee:** Bill Broich, 3100 Grand Ave. 2e, Des Moines, IA 50312. **Prizes:** Trophies 1st, 2nd, 3rd; U1000, 1st , 2nd ; U800, 1st , 2nd; U600, 1st , 2nd; U400, 1st , 2nd; U200, 1st , 2nd; Unrated, 1st , 2nd. **Contact:** Bill Broich, 515-205-8062 or broich01@yahoo.com OR Ben Bratz, 515-805-1147 or bratzchess@gmail.com. **Location:** Holiday Inn Des Moines-Airport/Conf Center, an IHG Hotel, Fleur Drive, Des Moines, IA, USA. Phone 515.287.2400

Dabaeva to Represent Iowa in Rockefeller Championship

By: Bill Broich, IA, NTD

The Rockefeller qualifier was held in conjunction with the Denker and Rockefeller qualifiers on February 10, 2024, at the Airport Holiday Inn in Des Moines, Iowa. Nadezhda Dabaeva will represent Iowa in the 2024 Tournament of Champions held in conjunction with the U.S. Open in Norfolk, Virginia beginning in late July. She attends Southdale School in Cedar Falls, Iowa, and is in fourth grade. Dabaeva earned the honors by defeating Arron Singh in a tense fourth-round win. Congratulations to all who competed.

Pair Num	Player Name USCF ID / Rtg (Pre->Post)	Total Pts	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4
1 IA	<u>NADEZHDA DABAIEVA</u> 31393452 / R: 1131 ->1179 Q: 1041P22->1107	4.0	W 7	W 8	W 9	3
2 IA	<u>KELTON HOLM</u> 30017685 / R: 1461 ->1429 Q: 1224 ->1203	3.0	W 4	W 9	L 3	5
3 IA	<u>ARRON SINGH</u> 30167452 / R: 1166 ->1183 Q: 1115 ->1123	3.0	W 6	W 11	2	1
4 IA	<u>LEVIATHAN FREERKSEN</u> 17142757 / R: 565 -> 703 Q: 562 -> 709	3.0	L 2	W 12	W 8	9
5 IA	<u>ADVAITH REDDY SAMA</u> 31320329 / R: 626P19-> 616P23 Q: 848 -> 806	2.0	L 8	W 7	W 6	2
6 IA	<u>BENJAMIN GUO</u> 30015842 / R: 424P6 -> 469P10 Q: 428P6 -> 504P10	2.0	L 3	W 10	L 5	11
7 IA	<u>DARYA GURTOVAYA</u> 30198499 / R: 422 -> 447 Q: 427 -> 492	2.0	L 1	L 5	W 11	12
8 IA	<u>NOLAN BENN</u> 31324242 / R: 256P13-> 436P17 Q: 256P13-> 450P17	2.0	W 5	L 1	L 4	10
9 IA	<u>AARON H WONG</u> 30063754 / R: 857 -> 811 Q: 862 -> 809	1.0	W 12	L 2	L 1	4
10 NE	<u>RITHVIK SEETHARAMAN</u> 30749535 / R: 541 -> 429 Q: 555 -> 452	1.0	L 11	L 6	W 12	8
11 IA	<u>GUGAN BALASUBRAMANIAN</u> 31019047 / R: 246P9 -> 266P13 Q: 333P18-> 341P22	1.0	W 10	L 3	L 7	6
12 IA	<u>NOAH ANDREW KOTALIK</u> 31331687 / R: 399P12-> 326P16 Q: 482P24-> 395	0.0	L 9	L 4	L 10	7



Chief TD Ben Bratz, Rockefeller representative Nadezhda Dabaeva, Barber representative runner-up Arina Dabaeva, and their father Vadim Davaev. Photo by Bill Broich



Kelton Holm vs Advaith Reddy Sama in the background and Aaron Wong vs Leviathan Freerksen in the foreground compete in the 2024 Rockefeller Qualifier. Photo by Bill Broich

Goldilocks and the Three Dubuquers:

The Michael A. Selig Memorial Northeastern Open

By Ben Darr

At dawn on February the 3rd, three members of the Dubuque Chess Club ventured hundreds of miles north into the snowy tundra of Appleton, Wisconsin for the 57th Annual Northeastern Open.

There were three sections to this two-day event. Playing in his first official chess tournament, Ryan Hensley entered the novice section. A veteran player, Ben Darr jumped into the open section. Jon Snow, the Goldilocks of our story, found himself right at home in the reserve, a medium-rated section that ended up being just right for Jon.

Our three heroes checked into the hotel and jumped right into the games. All three players scored victories in round one, with Ryan winning his very first tournament game! By the end of the first day of play, Ben had 2.5 out of 3

points, and Jon was 3-0.

After the dust had settled after day two, Ryan had 2.5 points, Ben had 3 out of 5, and Jon Snow had a perfect five points out of five, winning the reserve section!

The tournament was a wonderful experience for all three adventurers, with Ryan scoring well in his first official event, Ben scoring a win as black against an expert player in Round 2 (see the annotated game that follows), and of course, with Jon bringing home the bacon as the undisputed reserve champion! We thank the organizers for running a great tournament.

Full Study:

<https://lichess.org/study/9CQTU47h/GUON0cCn>



Photo caption: Ryan Hensley (L), Jon Snow with reserve winnings (center), and Ben Darr ®

Allen Becker (2007)—Ben Darr (1822). 57th Annual Northeastern Open. 2024.02.03. Rd 2.

e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 f5 { I have tried just about everything against the Spanish as black, and my latest attempt is this, the Jaenisch Gambit (or Schliemann Defense, if you prefer). It's a risky and aggressive attempt to get white out of his comfort zone. I like the double-edged nature of this system, especially since so many closed Spanish positions seem single-edged in favor of white. But one does not simply play 3...f5 without knowing a few things ahead of time. (I learned that the hard way myself in a more recent game.) }



4. d3 { My opponent plays a safe and solid system, simply defending the pawn. I was relieved at this, as I knew what I was doing in this line, compared to some others. }
4... fxe4 { The point is to take in order to open the f-file. Black will

also have two center pawns to white's one. } **5. dxe4 Nf6** **6. O-O Bc5** { The last couple moves, I must admit, I played simply because I knew they were good moves. But if white had played Bxc6 and Nxe5 at some point, I would have had to figure things out over the board. } **7. Qd3** { A book move that sets a little trap for black. } **7... d6**



{ Notice how black can't castle here, because of Qc4+, winning the c5 bishop. But now the bishop is defended. } **8. Nc3** { I was prepared for Qc4 here, which prevents black from castling. I played my next move in the hope of transposing to the line I knew. } **8... Bd7** { Castling was better here, and a more natural way to unpin the c6 knight. } **9. a4** { White is still not interested in Qc4. This move discourages black from a plan of castling long, however. } **9... Nb4!** { Now that Qc4 is not a check, white has one less option for defending c2 } **10. Bxd7+ Qxd7**

{ I am happy to trade a pair of bishops and develop my queen. }
11. Qe2 a5 { Preventing white from playing a5, and making sure he won't be able to push me around on the queenside. } **12. Nb5 c6** **13. Na3** { White's knight can come to c4, and he can now kick mine with c3. } **13... O-O** { I've kept white guessing as to my king's address, but now it's finally time to castle my rook onto the open file. } **14. c3 Na6** { An odd symmetry on the a-file, and the key battle seems to be over the b4 square. In that battle I still have to keep watch for Qc4+, which wins on b4 in many lines. I'm happy with my position at this point, as b4 is not possible, and I have connected my rooks first. }



15. Nc2 { White takes aim at b4. Stockfish calls this a mistake, preferring Nc4 instead, targeting white's center pawns. } **15... Qg4!** { I take aim at the white's most important pawn on e4. } **16. Re1 h6** { Keeping white pieces out of g5

and possibly, maybe, tentatively, preparing a kingside pawn storm. } **17. h3 Qe6** { I like the queen here as now I no longer have to worry about the queen check on c4. } **18. Rf1** { This is perhaps too respectful of black's pressure on f2, and ends up losing time. Bd2 instead, preparing b4 and completing development, would be better. } **18... g5!?** { Perhaps not the best move in an objective sense, but probably so in the practical sense. I smelled fear after white's last move, and I thought I might provoke further passivity. This is a committal move, however, as my king is giving away his sheltering pawns. But the position now resembles a King's Indian Defense, where black's glorious destiny is a kingside attack championed by a pawn storm. Here, however, the king's bishop is much better placed for the attack on c5. I could not resist. Stockfish prefers ...Ba7 here, giving white b4, but honestly, when you can play ...g5 instead, who cares? } (18... Ba7 19. b4)



19. Nh2 { White retreats another piece. But this was virtually forced, as white can't allow ...g4 to hit the water like a can-opener. } (19. Nd2) **19... Kh7** { Envisioning the g-file opening up. } **20. Ng4** { Bd2 is still preferable, but it's understandable that white wants to trade knights. } **20... Nh5** { My knight will land on f4. This is only possible thanks to my bishop, which pins the f2 pawn. If Nxe5 here, then Ng3. } **21. Be3 Nf4 22. Qd1** { White will need to chop the knight with Bxf4 eventually anyway, so he might as well do it now. } **22... Rad8** { Played without much thought. The computer doesn't like it much, but lining a rook up with the opposing queen is seldom a bad idea, especially when it activates your final piece. } **23. Rb1** { Stockfish says that white can play b4 immediately here, equalizing, because of a later Rb1 putting pressure down the b-file. But this preparatory move is too slow. } **23... d5!** { Cracking open the d-file for my queen's rook. } **24. Bxf4 dxe4??**



{ Over the board, I thought this simply won me a pawn. But I missed the simple retreat Bd2, saving the both the bishop and the queen, and white is up a piece. Instead, ...gxh4 preserves black's advantage. } **25. Qe2??** { Fortune must truly favor the brave. My opponent also missed Bd2 somehow. } **25... exf4** { Now I have a solid pawn advantage as well. Lucky me! Even so, I was nervous, as I was entering time trouble, and my king's house is awfully drafty. } **26. b4** { White finally gets b4 in. } **26... axb4 27. cxb4 Bd4** { Bd6 was better. So was Bb6 or Ba7. I should not have allowed white to trade off my bishop, even though that would help me double rooks on the d-file. } (27... Bd6) (27... Ba7) (27... Bb6)



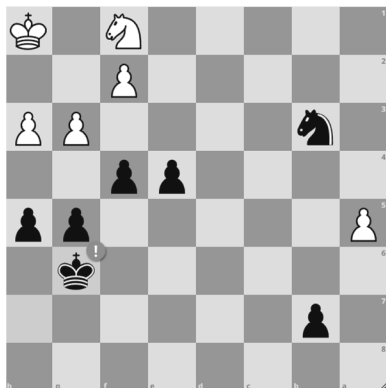
28. b5 Nc5 29. bxc6 Qxc6 30. a5? { White misses his last chance to take on d4. } **30... Bg7!** { Now, from g7, the bishop is a valuable piece on defense and offense. The extra defense on h6 is especially relevant since white can now play

31. Rb5 { White wants to play Rxc5 followed by Qxe4+. } **31... Na4** { Threatens a fork on c3. } **32. Rb4 Nc3 33. Qc4** { This is Stockfish's top move, but practically is a terrible choice. White is a pawn down, has plenty of time and a safe king, while black is under 3 minutes with an exposed king. All of these factors mandate that white should keep queens on the board. I was incredibly relieved to trade queens into a winning endgame. }



33... Qxc4 34. Rxc4 Rc8 { Trying to simplify as much as possible. } **35. Rxc8 Rxc8 36. Na1** { A strange square for the knight. But this allows further simplification. } **36... h5 37. Nh2** { White's horses are both uncomfortable in their respective stables. } **37... Ne2+ 38. Kh1 Bxa1** { ...e3 was a nice alternative. After all, why exchange my monster bishop for a knight on a1? I was bent on simplifying the game, and I saw a concrete winning continuation and took it. } **39. Rxa1 Rc1+ 40. Rxc1 Nxc1**

41. Nf1 Nb3 42. g3 Kg6! { The a5-pawn isn't going anywhere, and my knight on b3 and my pawn on f4 shut white's knight down completely. Now to get my strongest piece into the game! }



43. gxf4 gxf4 44. Kg2 Kf5 45. Kg1 { White is out of gas. } **45... Ke5 46. h4 Kd4 47. Kg2 Kd3** { Now the king restrains white's knight so black's is free to capture on a5. } **48. Nh2 Nxa5 49. Ng4** { White has found a creative way to get his knight into the game, thanks to the fact that black's pieces are far afield. But does it work? } **49... hxf4!** { I triple-checked this move, but it still took courage to play it. } **50. h5 Nc6** { and white resigned. The knight will stop the pawn just in time. }

0-1

March Madness a fun time at WIU

By: Rick Rector

Seventy-four chess players converged on the Western Illinois University Moline campus this past Saturday for the annual March Madness Chess Tournament.

We had participants from as far away as Wisconsin and Kansas as well as Iowa and Illinois.

Anjaneya Rao won the open section with a 4-0 record.

Erick Gomez and Brennan Plank shared first prize in the under 1400 section with 4-0 records.

Darya Gurtovaya took home the first place trophy for beginners with a 4-0 record.

Special thanks to Western Illinois for use of the facility and the free pizza. Luis Peralta for the pop, water and snacks, and the night before setup.

Also, a big thank you to Ben Bratz who got up super early so he could travel from West Des Moines to the Q-C and be ready to register players at 8:30 a.m.

Thanks to Ben, we were able to live broadcast the top three boards in the open section.

And a special thanks to Mariela Trevino for bringing her "non traditional" chess sets for others to utilize between rounds.

It made my job all the more easier. It's good when a plan comes together.

Full Standings can be seen here:

<https://www.uschess.org/msa/XtblMain.php?202403169202-16442373>

Quad-Cities March Madness Open 2024: Beginner -- Standings

#	Place	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Total
1	1	Darya Gurtovaya	30198499	447	W15	W3	W6	W2	4.0
2	2-5	Miles Wagner		unr.	W4	W8	W5	L1	3.0
3		Luffy Nguyen		unr.	W11	L1	W7	W9	3.0
4		Dean LaFountain		unr.	L2	W10	W14	W6	3.0
5		Tate James Watson	31682986	unr.	W12	W13	L2	W11	3.0
6	6-10	Preston Williamson		unr.	W16	W7	L1	L4	2.0
7		Zawadi Kalapwe		unr.	W10	L6	L3	W13	2.0
8		Gloria Peralta	16111088	384	W9	L2	L11	W12	2.0
9		Ann Duong		unr.	L8	W15	W13	L3	2.0
10		Daniel Villafana		unr.	L7	L4	W15	W14	2.0
11	11-12	Nsango Kahinde		unr.	L3	D12	W8	L5	1.5
12		Belem del Carmen Vallejo		unr.	L5	D11	W16	L8	1.5
13	13-14	Liam Reynoso		unr.	W14	L5	L9	L7	1.0
14		Xavier Elga		unr.	L13	W16	L4	L10	1.0
15	15-16	Gerson Perez		unr.	L1	L9	L10	D16	0.5
16		Julio Gomez		unr.	L6	L14	L12	D15	0.5

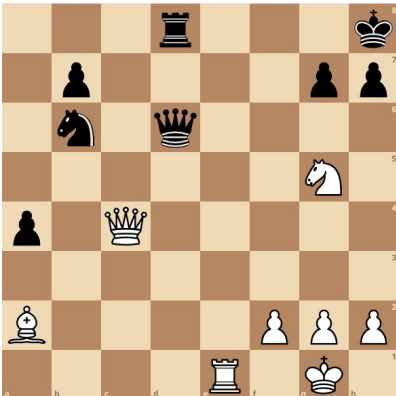
Puzzles

“Chess is 99% Tactics”

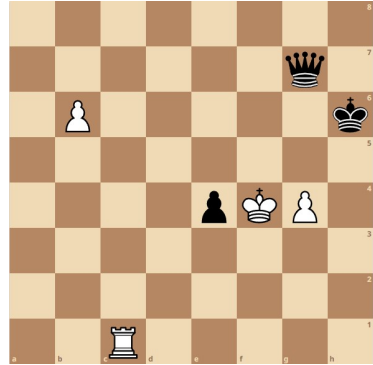
Below are 10 problems. How you should approach these problems are similar to games. Evaluate the position, then make your candidates moves. When you are satisfied with your answer, write down your answers.

When you are done, compare it to the solutions at the back of this issue.

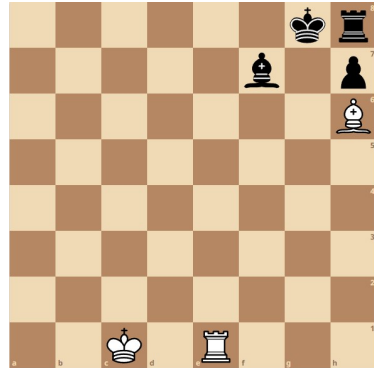
Problems 1-3 are “Easy”.
Problems 4-6 are “Medium”.
Problems 7-9 are Hard”.
Problem 10 is “Very Hard”.



1. White to Move



2. White to Move



3. White to Move



4. White to Move



5. White to Move



8. White to Move



6. White to Move



9. Black to Move



7. White to Move



10. White to Move

Kosokin and Shetty tie for 1st in the 2024 Leather Jackets

By: Bill Broich, NTD, IA

National Masters Valeriy Kosokin and Anshul Shetty scored 4.5 points each to tie for first in the 2024 Leather Jackets tournament held in Cedar Rapids, Iowa on March 1-3. Shetty, a 14-year-old from suburban Chicago, just earned the National Master title by cracking 2200 in January, battled the veteran Kosokin to a draw in the final round of this five-round FIDE-rated event. Shetty is not new to the Leather Jackets; he won the event last year!

Thirty-five players competed in this annual event including four National Masters, five Experts, and 13 class A players. The field had an average rating of 1875 and a median rating of 1944. Ratings ranged from 1413 to 2317. Players from Iowa, Illinois, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, and Wisconsin competed.

Top-ranked Frank Johnson captured second place out-right with 4 points and three players, Aiden Li, Joseph Pregon, and Rowan Riney tied for third place. Riney, of St. Louis, MO had an impressive tournament performance gaining 87 rating points! Sergey Popov also had a nice performance gaining 64 rating points.

Congratulations to all who competed! It was great to see Iowa's Harring, Denker, and Barber representatives all compete in this event! I want to thank Nick Risko for bringing four players from St. Louis and Srinivas Rao from Chicagoland for spreading the word about chess in Iowa! The four players from St. Louis and six players from suburban Chicago significantly strengthen this event adding one Master, three experts, two class A players, and 4 class B players. Without these ten players, the tournament would not be a success.



National Master Valeriy Kosokin has black against Artemii Khanbutaev on board one in the fourth round of the 2024 Leather Jackets Open, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Photo by Bill Broich.

**Gokul Thangavel (2084)—
Anshul Shetty (2203). Cedar
Rapids Leather Jackets.
2024.03.02. Rd 3.**

1.d4 { For my third-round game in the Cedar Rapids Leather Jackets I was facing Gokul Thangavel who is a strong player who just finished college. I knew Gokul played d4 but I was unsure of what he would play after Nf6. Still I managed to play an exciting game without making any errors in the opening }
1... Nf6 2. Nc3 d5 3. Bf4 { The Jobava London is an extremely aggressive opening for white, and I knew that in the game I would have to defend accurately to bring in the full point. } **3... a6 4. e3 g6 5. h4** { Already showing aggressive ideas }



5... h5 6. Be2 Bg7 7. Nf3 c5 { An interesting counter shot I found on the board which greatly weakens white's center and prevents many attacking ideas. } **8. dxc5!**

{ The only move that maintains white's slight advantage. Any other move fails to Qb6 or Qa5 } **8... Qa5 9. Qd2 O-O 10. O-O Qxc5 11. Ne5 Nbd7 12. Na4 Qa7 13. Qb4?!** { A scary move with many threats such as Qxe7 or Nxd7, Bxd7, and Nb6 with a huge advantage for white. } **13... Ne4!!** { The only move in the position that maintains equality, the idea is that if Qxe7?? then Bf6! and the Knight on e5 is lost }



14. Nxd7 Bxd7 15. Nb6 a5! { A move that simplifies the position and allows me to gain a slight edge. Another variation I was calculating was 15... e5 16. Bxe5 a5 17. Qe7 Rfe8 18. Qxd7 Rad8 } **16. Qxe7 Qxb6 17. Qxd7 Qxb2 18. Bd3 Qa3 19. Bxe4!!** { An amazing idea, if Bxa1 then Bxd5 and white's bishop are incredibly powerful giving him more than enough compensation for the rook. } **19... Rad8** { 19... Bxa1? 20. Bxd5 Bf6 21. Qxb7 } **20. Qxb7 dxe4 21. Rab1 Qxa2 22. Qxe4 a4!**

{Even though I am down a pawn in this position I have enough compensation due to my passing A pawn and powerful bishop } **23.**

Be5?! { My opponent, already low on time, makes the position far more complicated than necessary simpler was 23. Rb4 a3 24. Ra4 With good pressure on the A pawn preventing me from pushing it further 24... Qb2 25. Bg5 Rc8 26. Qd5 With equality } **23... Rde8**

24. f4?? { At this move I was quite shocked I assumed he would play (24. Ra1 Qe6 25. f4 f6 26. Qxg6 fxe5 27. Qxe6+ Rxe6 28. Rxa4 Rfe8 With a complicated but defendable endgame }



24... f6 25. Qxg6 fxe5 26. Rb7 Rf7 27. fxe5 Rxf1+ 28. Kxf1 Rf8+!! { The move my opponent probably missed any other move such as 28... Qa1+ 29. Ke2 Qxe5 30. Rxg7+ completely loses for



black making Rf8 the only move in the position }

29. Kg1 Qa1+ 30. Kh2 Qxe5+ 31. g3 a3 32. Ra7 Qc3?? { A bad inaccurate move, I was calculating the best move Qa1 but I was worried about 32... Qa1 33. Qe6+ Kh8 34. Rf7 Rxf7 35. Qxf7 where I couldn't see an accurate way to defend from perpetual and safeguard my a3 pawn } **33. Qe6+??** { An unfortunate blunder under extreme time pressure, he should have played Kg2 which even with time is very challenging to see } **33... Kh8 34. Qg6 Rf2+ 35. Kh3 Qc8+ 36. g4 Qxg4+!** { Simplifying the position into a winning endgame } **37. Qxg4 hxg4+ 38. Kxg4 Bf8 39. e4 Rxc2 40. e5 Bc5 41. Ra4 a2 42. e6 Rc4+!** { The final shot effectively finishing the game } **43. Rxc4 a1=Q 44. Re4 Be7 45. Kh5 Qf6 46. Ra4 Qf5+ 47. Kh6 Bf8#**

0-1



On the left, Niko Nixon of Iowa City, Iowa's Denker representative and on the right, Nehanraj Ramesh, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa's Barber representative.



Chief TD, Bill Broich, Co-champions NM Anshul Shetty and NM Valeriy Kosokin, and Chief Organizer, Shawn Kmetz



2024 Harring representative Irene Fei of Ames anticipates her next move as Christian Dawson observes.



Khanbutaev takes a break from playing NM Kosokin on board one to observe Anshul Shetty and Anjaneya Rao battle on board two. All three junior players live in suburban Chicago. Shetty and Rao attend Fischer Middle School in Aurora, Illinois. Photo by Bill Broich.

Standings of 2024 Leather Jackets

Pair Num	Player Name USCF ID / Rtg (Pre->Post)	Total Pts	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5
<u>1</u> IL	<u>ANSHUL P SHETTY</u> 15752957 / R: 2203 ->2222	4.5 N:C	W 24 B	W 15 W	W 8 B	W 7 W	D 2 B
<u>2</u> IA	<u>VALERIY KOSOKIN</u> 15212732 / R: 2200 ->2212	4.5 N:C	W 21 W	W 18 B	W 23 W	W 10 B	D 1 W
<u>3</u> IA	<u>FRANK B JOHNSON</u> 12652092 / R: 2317 ->2314	4.0 N:C	W 16 B	W 4 W	D 7 B	D 8 W	W 15 W
<u>4</u> IL	<u>AIDEN LINYUAN LI</u> 30387428 / R: 2002 ->2017	3.5 N:1	W 28 W	L 3 B	W 20 W	D 13 B	W 10 W
<u>5</u> IA	<u>JOSEPH JEFFERY PREGON</u> 15834640 / R: 1960 ->1968	3.5 N:1	D 22 W	D 13 B	W 25 W	D 14 B	W 19 W
<u>6</u> MO	<u>ROWAN RINEY</u> 15929228 / R: 1735 ->1822	3.5 N:1	L 7 W	W 35 B	W 32 W	D 12 B	W 18 W
<u>7</u> IL	<u>ANJANEYA SRIPATHY RAO</u> 16442373 / R: 2174 ->2171	3.0 N:1	W 6 B	W 14 W	D 3 W	L 1 B	D 12 W
<u>8</u> IA	<u>GOKUL THANGAVEL</u> 13749596 / R: 2084 ->2086	3.0 N:1	W 32 B	W 30 W	L 1 W	D 3 B	D 13 W
<u>9</u> IA	<u>ALEC DANIEL AIMDILOKHONG</u> 17127332 / R: 2069 ->2072	3.0 	W 26 B	D 27 W	D 12 B	H 	H
<u>10</u> IL	<u>ARTEMII KHANBUTAEV</u> 30784129 / R: 1952 ->1976	3.0 N:1	W 34 B	W 17 W	W 27 B	L 2 W	L 4 B
<u>11</u> IA	<u>JASMIN ZULIC</u> 12626843 / R: 1986 ->1970	3.0 N:2	L 23 W	W 19 B	D 21 W	D 22 B	W 25 W
<u>12</u> IA	<u>NIKO R NIXON</u> 15980255 / R: 1952 ->1964	3.0 N:1	H 	W 22 B	D 9 W	D 6 W	D 7 B
<u>13</u> IA	<u>NEHANRAJ RAMESH</u> 31163791 / R: 1944 ->1943	3.0 N:2	D 31 B	D 5 W	W 30 B	D 4 W	D 8 B
<u>14</u> IA	<u>IRENE FEI</u> 30015588 / R: 1923 ->1939	3.0 N:1	W 35 W	L 7 B	W 17 B	D 5 W	H
<u>15</u> IL	<u>MIKHAIL KORENMAN</u> 12803377 / R: 1921 ->1922	3.0 N:3	W 36 W	L 1 B	W 28 W	X 	L 3 B

16	LUKE O HENGEN	3.0	L	3	L	28	W	36	W	33	W	26
NE	30728935 / R: 1824 ->1822	N:2	W		B		W		B		W	
17	JAMES F MCLAUGHLIN	2.5	W	25	L	10	L	14	W	28	D	20
MO	11243053 / R: 2100 ->2100	N:2	W		B		W		B		W	
18	VOLODYMYR BARANOVSKYI	2.5	W	33	L	2	D	24	W	21	L	6
IA	30450378 / R: 1974 ->1954	N:2	B		W		B		W		B	
19	ROBERT LOUIS REYNOLDS	2.5	D	29	L	11	W	31	W	24	L	5
IA	11332722 / R: 1978 ->1951	N:3	B		W		B		W		B	
20	NICHOLAS RISKIO	2.5	L	27	W	31	L	4	W	30	D	17
	16404388 / R: 1795 ->1806	N:2	B		W		B		W		B	
21	IVAN MAKSIMOV	2.5	L	2	W	26	D	11	L	18	W	33
WI	30635923 / R: 1737 ->1761	N:2	B		W		B		B		W	
22	SERGEY POPOV	2.5	D	5	L	12	W	29	D	11	D	24
IA	16026648 / R: 1628 ->1692	N:2	B		W		B		W		B	
23	BEN J DARR	2.0	W	11	W	29	L	2	F		U	
IA	14133594 / R: 1845 ->1869		B		W		B					
24	SAMRAAT JAGDISH JAGO ZAGADE	2.0	L	1	W	36	D	18	L	19	D	22
IA	16147973 / R: 1792 ->1789	N:3	W		B		W		B		W	
25	DAVID J EACKER	2.0	L	17	W	33	L	5	W	29	L	11
IA	12656345 / R: 1725 ->1731	N:3	B		W		B		W		B	
26	JAMES S ELLIS	2.0	L	9	L	21	W	35	X		L	16
WI	10314372 / R: 1700 ->1700		W		B		W				B	
27	JAMES NEAL II	1.5	W	20	D	9	L	10	U		U	
IA	12884217 / R: 2218 ->2201		W		B		W					
28	MR. GURUGRAHAN GURUMOORTHY	1.5	L	4	W	16	L	15	L	17	D	31
NE	30149738 / R: 1684 ->1683	N:3	B		W		B		W		W	
29	ASHVATH REDDY PITTALA	1.5	D	19	L	23	L	22	L	25	W	36
IL	30813081 / R: 1645 ->1634	N:4	W		B		W		B		W	
30	CHRISTIAN DAWSON	1.5	B		L	8	L	13	L	20	H	
IA	16745417 / R: 1587 ->1569				B		W		B			
31	KELTON HOLM	1.5	D	13	L	20	L	19	H		D	28
IA	30017685 / R: 1422 ->1449		W		B		W				B	
32	SENAD SARKIC	1.0	L	8	B		L	6	F		U	
IA	12712212 / R: 1923 ->1897		W				B					
33	STEPHEN PAUL BEAN	1.0	L	18	L	25	B		L	16	L	21
IA	12424784 / R: 1660 ->1619		W		B				W		B	
34	CHRISTIAN DAWSON	1.0	L	10	B		U		U		U	
IA	16745417 / R: 1587 ->1569		W									
35	BENJAMIN WILLIAM BRATZ	1.0	L	14	L	6	L	26	D	36	H	
IA	30610479 / R: 1413 ->1406		B		W		B		B			
36	NOAH B BRUGGEMAN	0.5	L	15	L	24	L	16	D	35	L	29
KS	15732892 / R: 1564 ->1524		B		W		B		W		B	

Nixon Claims Denker Title

By: Bill Broich, IA, NTD

The Denker qualifier was held in conjunction with the Barber and Rockefeller qualifiers on February 10, 2024, at the Airport Holiday Inn in Des Moines, Iowa. Niko Nixon will represent Iowa in 2024 Tournament of Champions held in conjunction with the U.S. Open in Norfolk, Virginia beginning in late July. Nixon is a Junior at West High in Iowa City. Please see the fourth-round game below the cross table.

from Iowa, Wisconsin, and Illinois. The group is the brainchild of Jim Hodina, NYTD, IA. Jim is a former Iowa Scholastic Chess Coordinator and former President of the Iowa State Chess Association. Jim relocated to South Carolina in June of 2023. Congratulations to all who competed.

Niko Nixon, 2024 Iowa Denker Champion. Photo by Vivian Nixon

Nixon topped a field of five players in this year's qualifier. The marque match-up came in round two when Nixon was paired with former Denker representative, Samraat Zagade. Both Nixon and Zagade are members of the Pawn Stormers. The Pawn Stormers are a group of talented young players



Pair Num	Player Name USCF ID / Rtg (Pre->Post)	Total Pts	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3
1	<u>NIKO R NIXON</u>	3.0	W	5 W	2 W 4
IA	15980255 / R: 1921 ->1932 Q: 1490 ->1519		B	W	B
2	<u>SAMRAAT JAGDISH JAGD ZAGADE</u>	2.0	W	4 L	1 W 3
IA	16147973 / R: 1864 ->1852 Q: 1592 ->1572		W	B	W
3	<u>JOHANNES EDWARD BOEVERS</u>	2.0	B	W	5 L 2
IA	30216060 / R: 1146 ->1150 Q: 1156 ->1156			W	B
4	<u>LONDON OSTOLA</u>	1.0	L	2 B	L 1
IA	31681502 / R: Unrated-> 768P2 Q: Unrated-> 768P2		B		W
5	<u>TOBY FRIDAY</u>	1.0	L	1 L	3 B
IA	31701272 / R: Unrated-> 743P2 Q: Unrated-> 743P2		W	B	

Niko Nixon (1932)-Samraat Zagade (1852). Iowa Denker Qualifier. 2024.02.10. Rd 2.

1.d4 { For my second-round game for the Denker Qualifier, I was facing Samraat Zagade who I was familiar with through Iowa Pawn Stormers and other chess events, so it felt more like I was playing a friend or teammate than an actual opponent. Having white felt like a very big advantage because I knew Samraat played the Pirc which to me feels easier to play as white. I also had the advantage of Samraat being busy as a senior in high school, so with his mind being on probably a plethora of things unrelated to chess, I thought he would not be playing at his best. } **1... Nf6 2. Bf4 g6 3. Nc3 Bg7 4. e4 d6 5. Qd2 Nbd7 6. O-O-O O-O 7. e5** { I had prepared up to here. E5 is pretty good for white since the f6 knight has to move to weird squares, and after Bh6, white's kingside pawns are able to start rolling really fast. } **7... Nh5 8. Bh6** { Trading bishops since black's is usually a good defender against the kingside attack. } **8... c6** { I think with the idea of getting the black queen to a5, or possibly to support b5 to get counterplay on the queenside. This may be too slow though since g4 is with tempo and forces the white queen getting to h6,



and it is very hard to defend against the h-pawn push. }

9. g4

...Bxh6 10. Qxh6 Ng7 11. h4 { White basically has gotten almost everything they want to achieve from this position and defending puts black at too passive a position to come back. }



11... f6 12. h5 Qe8 13. Bd3 f5 14. Nf3 { I have at least one of every piece putting pressure on black's position, and at this point with low time for Samraat, at the time is seemed like too much of a headache for black to handle. } **14... Ne6 15. gxf5 gxf5 16. Qxe6+ Kh8 17. Qh6 Qf7 18. Ng5 Qg8 19. Rdg1 Nf6** { Trying to trap my queen after exf6, Rxf6, which is still much better for white, but may relieve some pressure/ } **20. Nxh7**



{ This secures winning of material, and black becomes paralyzed against the threat of stacking rooks. } **20... Qxh7 21. Qxf8+ Ng8 22. Rg6** { Was easiest for me since Be6, Qxa8 seemed depressing for black. } **22... b6 23. Rhg1 Bb7 24. Rxg8+ Qxg8 25. Rxg8+ Kh7 26. Qg7# ***

Ramesh tops Dabaeva in Playoff to Capture Barber Title

By: Bill Broich, IA, NTD

The Barber qualifier was held in conjunction with the Denker and Rockefeller qualifiers on February 10, 2024, at the Airport Holiday Inn in Des Moines, Iowa. Two newcomers to Iowa chess faced off in a playoff for the privilege to represent Iowa in the 2024 Tournament of Champions held in conjunction with the U.S. Open. Nehanraj Ramesh, a sixth grader from Ceder Rapids, Iowa defeated Arina Dabaeva of Cedar Falls, Iowa to claim the Barber title after winning a playoff. The playoff consisted of two G/15, delay 5 games. The two contestants played to a draw in the fourth and final round of the tournament. Please see the fourth-round game below the cross table.



Eighteen players competed in this year's qualifier. Asim Shivapur, who has represented Iowa in the Barber Championship the last two years, finished seventh in this year's qualifier. Congratulations to all who competed.

Dabaeya, Arina (1923) -Ramesh, Nahanraj (1325). 2024 Iowa Barber Qualifier. Rd 4. 2024.02.10.

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nd2 Nf6 4. exd5 exd5 5. Ngf3 Bd6 6. Bd3 O-O (6... Bd7) 7. O-O c5 8. dxc5 Bxc5 9. Nb3 Be7 (9... Bd7 10. Be3) 10. Be3 Nc6 11. h3 b6 12. Nbd4 Nxd4 13. Nxd4 Bc5 14. Qf3 Be6 15. Nf5 Bxf5 16. Bxf5 Bxe3 17. Qxe3 Re8 18. Qf3 Qd6 19. Rfe1 Re5 20. Bd3 Rae8 21. Rxe5 Qxe5 22. c3 Ne4 23. Re1 Nd2 24. Qe3 Qxe3 25. Rxe3 Rxe3 26. fxe3 g6 27. Kf2 f5 28. Kg3 Kf7 29. Kf4 Kf6 30. h4 h6 31. g4 g5+ 32. hxg5+ hxg5+ 33. Kg3 Ne4+ 34. Bxe4 fxe4 35. Kf2 b5 36. b4 Ke5 37. Ke2 Kd6 38. Kd2 Kc6 39. Kc2 a6 1/2-1/2

Chief TD Ben Bratz, Barber Qualifier Champion Nehanraj Ramesh, and Ramesh Muthaiyah, Nehanraj's father. Photo by Bill Broich

Num	USCF ID / Rtg (Pre->Post)	Pts	1	2	3	4
1	<u>NEHANRAJ RAMESH</u>	3.5	W	8 W	13 W	6 D
IA	31163791 / R: 1923 ->1912	N:4	W	B	W	B
	Q: 1718 ->1707					
2	<u>ARINA DABAEVA</u>	3.5	W	15 W	11 W	7 D
IA	31393447 / R: 1326 ->1367		W	B	W	W
	Q: 1335 ->1366					
3	<u>RAKSHITH SEETHARAMAN</u>	3.0	W	10 L	6 W	8 W
NE	17314901 / R: 1655 ->1624		B	W	B	W
	Q: 1417 ->1386					
4	<u>COLE VEEDER</u>	3.0	W	14 L	7 W	10 W
IA	30022342 / R: 1444 ->1417		W	B	W	B
	Q: 1111 ->1103					
5	<u>KYROS YUEFAN WU</u>	3.0	L	11 W	12 W	14 W
IA	15429915 / R: 1340 ->1309		B	B	W	B
	Q: 1186 ->1161					
6	<u>AARUD AJAYKUMAR</u>	2.0	W	16 W	3 L	1 L
IA	16233086 / R: 1139 ->1191		W	B	B	W
	Q: 877 -> 944					
7	<u>SHIVAPUR ASIM</u>	2.0	W	17 W	4 L	2 L
	16349823 / R: 1031 ->1071		B	W	B	W
	Q: 964 -> 986					
8	<u>VINCENT H WONG</u>	2.0	L	1 W	18 L	3 W
IA	16217546 / R: 1019 ->1027		B	W	W	B
	Q: 1025 ->1038					
9	<u>EMMA CHEN</u>	2.0	L	12 W	15 L	11 W
IA	30445032 / R: 1029 -> 960		W	B	W	B
	Q: 1016 -> 954					
10	<u>ARMAN GOLCHIN</u>	2.0	L	3 W	16 L	4 W
IA	17230615 / R: 874P11-> 886P15		W	B	B	W
	Q: 787P15-> 804P19					
11	<u>ARNABH NATHAN SWAMY</u>	2.0	W	5 L	2 W	9 L
IA	30655388 / R: 670 -> 856		W	W	B	B
	Q: 709 -> 880					
12	<u>AYAAN DESAI</u>	2.0	W	9 L	5 W	13 L
IA	16940898 / R: 363P21-> 588P25		B	W	W	B
	Q: 425P21-> 626P25					
13	<u>LUCIUS CORIGLIONE</u>	1.0	W	18 L	1 L	12 U
IA	30163268 / R: 1232 ->1185		B	W	B	
	Q: 891 -> 858					
14	<u>BLAIZE J OLSON</u>	1.0	L	4 W	17 L	5 L
IA	31333460 / R: 767P8 -> 746P12		B	W	B	W
	Q: 650P8 -> 668P12					
15	<u>WILLIAM WEST</u>	1.0	L	2 L	9 W	16 L
IA	30673319 / R: 666 -> 667		B	W	B	W
	Q: 845 -> 817					
16	<u>VESPER DRUVENGA</u>	1.0	L	6 L	10 L	15 X
IA	31615324 / R: 585P5 -> 526P8		B	W	W	
	Q: 564P13-> 531P16					
17	<u>YASH SHINDE</u>	1.0	L	7 L	14 B	F
IA	30931060 / R: 387P9 -> 377P11		W	B		
	Q: 571P17-> 540P19					
18	<u>NASH HUNDER</u>	0.5	L	13 L	8 H	U
IA	30917802 / R: 612P19-> 604P21		W	B		
	Q: 731 -> 699					

Chess is a Pathway to Community in Iowa

By: Bill Broich, NTD, IA

The Barber/Denker/Rockefeller qualifier tournament was held on February 10, 2024, at the Airport Holiday Inn in Des Moines, Iowa. Two of the three players who will be representing Iowa in the Tournament of Champions later this year in Norfolk, Virginia recently moved to Iowa. Chess served as the introduction to a new community for the families of these new Iowans.

Nadezhda Dabaeva is Iowa's Rockefeller representative. She attends Southdale School in Cedar Falls, Iowa, and is in fourth grade.

Arina Dabaeva is the runner-up for the Barber representative. She also attends Southdale School and is in sixth grade. Arina was defeated in a playoff by another newcomer to Iowa chess, Nehanraj Ramesh. Nehanrai and his family relocated to Iowa from the Seattle, Washington area in October of 2023. He attends Hazel Point Intermediate School and is in sixth grade.

Vadim Dabaev, Mariia Kuklina, and their three children Nadezhda Dabaeva, Arina Dabaeva, and Denis Dabaev moved to Cedar Falls, Iowa from

Irkutsk, Russia in July of 2023. Vadim graduated from a technical University in Irkutsk. He is an electrical engineer. Currently, he is focused on learning English. Mariia holds a Ph.D. in Economics. She is a postdoctoral scholar in the ARTICenter of Geography department of the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

The family had an immediate impact on Iowa chess. Mariia and her three children have competed in several Iowa tournaments in addition to events in Missouri and Illinois. They played in their first US Chess in August of 2023. Mariia tied with four other players for second place scoring four out of five points in her first tournament, the Iowa RBO Championship. Denis, Arina, and Nadezhda competed in their first US Chess event the same day, the Iowa Reserve Championship. Denis won three of four games and the sisters each won two out of four games. He attends Hawkeye Community College in Waterloo, Iowa.

Vadim stated, "We visited and participated in tournaments in various cities such as Cedar Rapids, Iowa City, Moline City, Des-Moines, and Keokuk. We met with many people who also participated in chess competitions, this helped us learn English, and study local culture."

Vadim Dabaev, Nadezhda Dabaeva, Mariia Kuklina, Denis Dabaev, and Arina Dabaeva. Photo by Bill Broich



Puzzle Solutions

Problem 1

1. Qg8+ Rxc8
2. Nf7#

Problem 2

1. Rc6+ Kh7
2. Rc7 Qxc7
3. bxc7

Problem 3

1. Rf1 Bg6
2. Rf8#

Problem 4

1. Qb7+ Rxf7
2. axb7+ Kb8
3. Nxc6+ Qxc6
4. Ra8#

Problem 5

1. Bf5+ Bxf5
2. Rxh6 gxh6
3. Qf7#

Problem 6

1. Rxe5+ dxe5
2. d6+ Kf8
3. dxc7 Qa3+
4. Kb1

Problem 7

1. Qxe6+ Nxe6
2. Ng5+ Kd8
3. Nxe6#

Problem 8

1. Bxg7+ Kxg7
2. Rxf7+ Kxf7
3. Qg6+ Ke7
4. Qf6+ Kd7
5. Qd6#

Problem 9

1. Ne2+ Kh2
2. Rxg2+ Kxg2
3. Nf4+

Problem 10

1. Bxf7+ Rxf7
2. Re8+ Re8
3. Rxe8+ Kxe8
4. Qd6+ Kg8
5. Re3

Iowa Chess En Passant
c/o Jim Freerksen
3210 NE 44th Ave
Des Moines IA 50317
www.iowa-chess.org



*The winners of the March Madness tournament at
Western Illinois University in Moline.
Photo by Rick Rector.*